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Monday, April 3, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly



'IT'S OBVIOUS'

A-Rod can't find the words to describe his new romance with J-Lo. 17

Metro's Ellis Henican accuses GOP of theft. 4

Eugene Mirman comes to Underground Arts. 22

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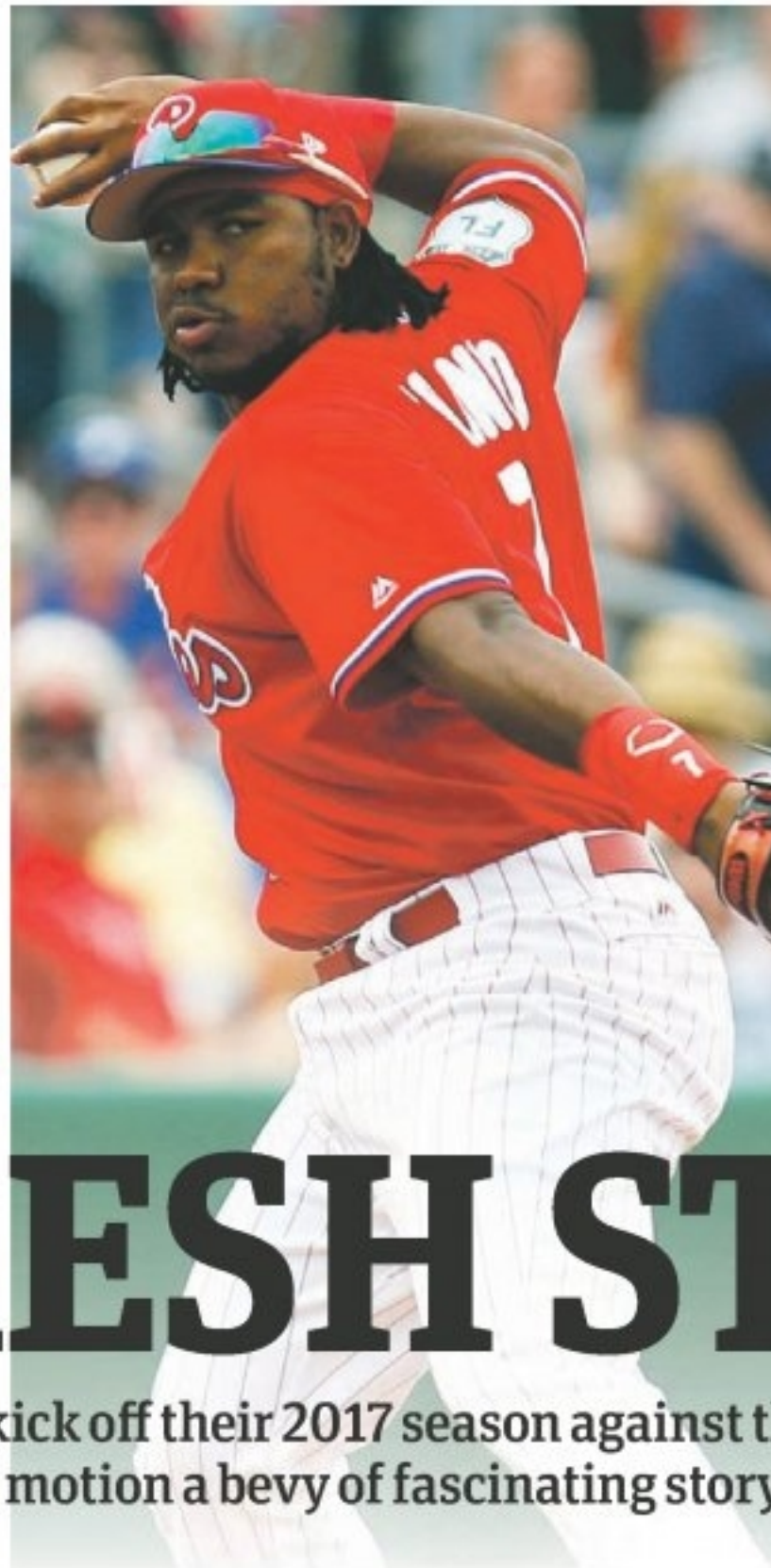
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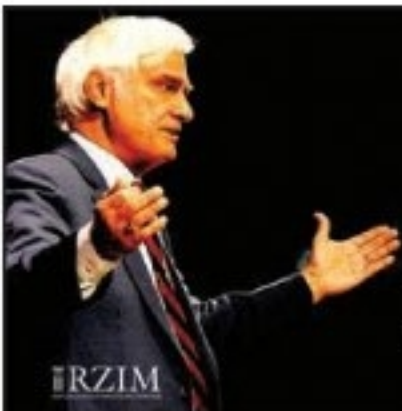
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TRUMP PRESSURES CHINA BEFORE XI TALKS

President Donald Trump held out the possibility of using trade as a lever to secure Chinese cooperation against North Korea and said Washington might deal with Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs on its own if need be. The comments, in an interview published on Sunday by the Financial Times, appeared designed to pressure Chinese President



Xi Jinping ahead of his visit to Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida this week. "China has great influence over North Korea. And China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't. And if they do that will be very good for China, and if they don't it won't be good for anyone," Trump was quoted as saying, according to an edited transcript published by the newspaper. **REUTERS**

NATIONAL SECURITY AIDES N. KOREA POLICY REVIEW

President Donald Trump's top national security aides have completed a broad review of U.S. options aimed at countering North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, a senior U.S. official said on Sunday. The review, which was accelerated to have it done before Trump's summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, includes a range of economic and military measures but leans toward new

sanctions and increased pressure on Beijing to rein in its neighbor, the official said. The list of recommendations was put together by Trump's National Security Council on his orders and was ready for his consideration, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. It was not immediately clear if the review had reached Trump's desk or how quickly he would decide on a course of action. **REUTERS**

PRIZED 1804 US DOLLAR SELLS FOR \$3.3 MILLION

An 1804 U.S. silver dollar sold for \$3.3 million in one of a series of auctions that brought in a record total of more than \$100 million for a renowned private coin collection, organizers said. The silver dollar, one of only eight of its kind, was snapped up at auction in Baltimore. It was one of more than 200 coins sold at the event. The auction series, beginning in



2015, generated a total of nearly \$107 million in sales, according to Stack's Bowers Galleries, which conducted the auctions along with Sotheby's. The collection belonged to Dallas real estate developer Mack Pogue and his son Brent, who had collected coins since the 1970s. Coin dealers Kevin Lipton of California and John Albanese of New Jersey jointly bought the prized silver dollar. **REUTERS**

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

CANCER RESEARCH UK BOAT RACE

4 The Men's Reserve Boats Race pass under Hammersmith Bridge during The Cancer Research UK Boat Race on Sunday in London, England. The 163rd annual Cancer Research Boat Races saw crews from Oxford and Cambridge universities compete on a 4-mile course along the Thames. Oxford won for the fourth time in five years. **GETTY IMAGES**



ARREST IN SEX ASSAULT SEEN ON FACEBOOK LIVE

5 Chicago authorities said they had arrested a 14-year-old boy in connection with the sexual assault of a teenage girl by multiple young men that was seen on Facebook Live in March. "Tonight, Chicago Police Department arrested the first of several juvenile offenders in the Facebook sexual assault incident," the department's chief spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said on Twitter. The mother of

the victim of the March assault had approached police after an unrelated news conference and shown them images of her daughter being assaulted by five or six young men. The mother said the girl's uncle had told her about a video on Facebook Live that showed the assault. The high school freshman had gone to the store and her mother became concerned when she did not return. **REUTERS**



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GARY KANE, SENIOR EDITOR

First daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner are worth more than \$740 million, attributed largely to their real estate holdings and investments, according to ethics filings released by the White House. Learn more about what could be the wealthiest administration in the nation's history at metro.us/news/politics.

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TRUMP'S AMERICA

GRAND LARCENY, COURT SEAT



The Senate Judiciary Committee is weighing the nomination of federal appellate judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. GETTY IMAGES

ELLIS HENICAN

Opinion

Ellis Henican is a seasoned observer of the nation's political and social landscape. He has appeared as a commentator on CNN, MSNBC and Fox News. He is a former columnist at Newsday. Follow him @henican



If someone robbed your house, would you drive the thief to the pawn shop?

So why should Democrats help deliver Neil Gorsuch onto the Supreme Court? That seat is stolen property, too.

That, when all the lesser arguments are stripped away, is the

best argument Democrats have as Senate Republicans try to install the silver-haired Gorsuch as the high court's fifth conservative justice. Doesn't the seat belong to Merrick Garland, the eminently qualified Court of Appeals judge who was nominated by Barack Obama last March, only to be denied a vote or even a hearing by Republican leader Mitch McConnell?

Given how Republicans froze out Garland, why should Democrats cooperate this time, even if Gorsuch has a nice résumé and an uncanny resemblance to an actor in one of those erectile-dysfunction ads?

I wasn't the commentator who first noticed that. But it's true. The smooth-talking, right-leaning jurist has the exact same twinkle and the same unthreatening tone. Now, he's putting the moves on Senate Democrats like they're a party of babeish 40-year-olds.

Doesn't "no" mean no anymore?

There will be an important hearing today in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Republicans will tout Gorsuch's fine credentials and advance his nomination to the Senate floor. But the Republicans still need 60 votes to overcome a Democratic filibuster. On Sunday, Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana became only the third Democrat to fold. That only gets the Republicans to 55.

There are bare-knuckle options on both sides. McConnell threatens to unleash the "nuclear option," if he can get 50 of his fellow Republicans to go along. "One way or another," the Republi-

can leader vows, Gorsuch will be confirmed this week. Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, still smarting from last year's home invasion, is taunting his Republican counterpart: Go ahead and try!

There is an answer to this so's-your-mother back-and-forth, the kind of bipartisan deal that used to get made all the time in Washington. Give this nomination to the man who deserves it, the dissed Merrick Garland, and let Neil Gorsuch — credentials, charm and all — come back the next time a high-court seat is empty.

That would be sensible and fair. Does this one really have to be settled at the pawn shop?

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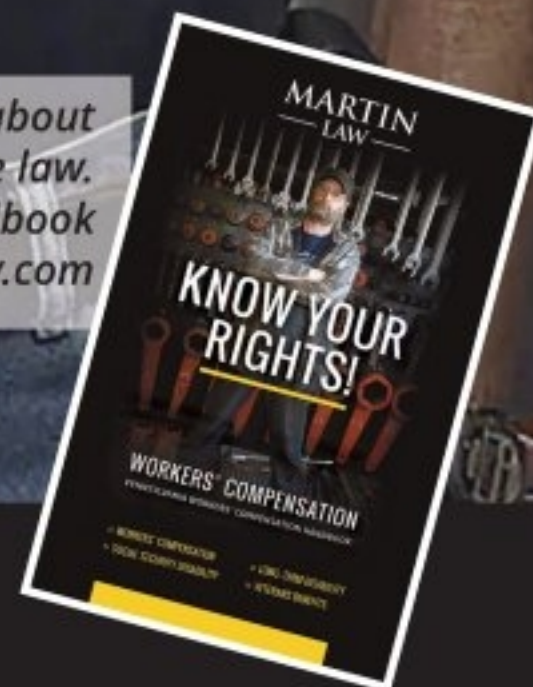
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The cafe's customer loyalty cards feature a who's who of prominent conservatives. GETTY IMAGES

Pittsburgh cafe finds mixing politics and coffee can leave a bitter taste

Punch cards featured pictures President Donald Trump and conservative politicians.

ing comments about the shop suddenly started popping up Facebook and Yelp.

"HORRIBLE PLACE," Yelp user Alexis K. of Oceanside, California, wrote. "I refuse to support a business [sic] who can act this way about our president who WE ELECTED fair and square."

In addition to Trump and Pence, the cards feature the likenesses of Sen. Ted Cruz and Rick Santorum, a former senator from Pennsylvania. Rounding out the gallery are five conservative commentators: Ann Coulter, Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly, Mike Huckabee and Pat Robertson, as well as controversial pharma executive Martin Shkreli.

The shop has been handing out the cards for months, but the deluge of calls, many of them abusive, only started after Fox News picked up the story on Wednesday, the co-owner said.

Fortunately, no one who has come into the shop in person has been abusive to the staff, said Miller, a Democratic voter.

It may help that Black Forge is next door to a Pittsburgh police station, and many officers are regular customers, Miller said.

"They thought it was pretty funny," he said. "They were surprised no one could see it was just a joke."

Despite the ire that the cards have stirred up, Miller said he has no regrets. After all, publicity is publicity — and business is booming, he said. **REUTERS**

The owners of a Pittsburgh coffee shop found out the hard way that in the hyperpolarized political climate of 2017, punching holes in pictures of President Donald Trump and other conservative stalwarts is no laughing matter for some.

The Black Forge Coffee Shop has been fielding phone calls this week from people around the country upset about the cafe's customer loyalty cards featuring a who's who of prominent conservatives, according to its owners.

The idea puts a topical twist on a familiar perk: Buy a coffee and the store punches a hole through a photo of Trump, Vice President Mike Pence or one of the others. After all 10 conservatives are punched, the customer gets a free cup.

"We wanted to do something unique that would stand out," said Nick Miller, who has run the shop with his business partner Ashley Corts for about 18 months. "It's not a statement; it's really just a joke."

More than a few people apparently were not amused.

While some people were calling the shop to voice their displeasure, others emailed images of the owners' faces superimposed with targets. Disparag-

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Flynn did not initially disclose income from Russia-linked companies

The discrepancy on reporting income linked to Russia could add to the scrutiny the retired general, who was forced to resign his White House post after only 24 days, is already under for his contacts with Russian officials.

Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, failed to disclose payments from a Russian television network and two other firms linked to Russia in a February financial disclosure form, according to documents released by the White House.

In a form signed by Flynn on March 31, the former White House official listed speaking engagements to Russian entities, including the Kremlin-funded RT TV, Volga-Dnepr Airlines and Kaspersky Government Security Solutions Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of Russian cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab.

The form, released on Saturday, does not say how much Flynn was paid but the speeches are in a

section titled "sources of compensation exceeding \$5,000 in a year."

The speeches were not included in a form that Flynn signed electronically on Feb. 11, which the White House also released.

U.S. intelligence agencies have said Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election in an effort to help Trump's candidacy. Multiple congressional committees and the FBI are looking into Russia's involvement.

Flynn's lawyer, Robert Kelner, said his client was in the process of submitting his financial disclosures forms in the days before he left the White House.

"That process was suspended when he left. When asked this week to resume the process and finalize the form, he did," Kelner said in an email. He added that it had been "far from clear" that Flynn was required to itemize each speech. The White House did not respond to a request for comment on Sunday.

Flynn was forced out on Feb. 13 for misrepresenting conversations he had with Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak before Trump took office and misleading Vice Pres-



Flynn has requested immunity if he testifies before the intelligence committees of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, Kelner said last week. GETTY IMAGES

ident Mike Pence about them.

Trump, a Republican, has said Democrats were pursuing investigations because they were upset about his Nov. 8 victory over their party's candidate, Hillary Clinton.

The Russian government has denied the allegations that it interfered in the U.S. election and released hacked emails of Democratic groups to tip the election toward Trump, who has called for better U.S. relations with Moscow. REUTERS

Firefighter battle blaze in Dubai



Emirati firefighters try to put out a fire which broke out in a construction site near the Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, and burned for several hours in Dubai on Sunday. On New Year's Eve 2015, a blaze erupted next door in a residential complex under construction near Dubai's biggest shopping mall and a hotel was ravaged by fire, authorities said. GETTY IMAGES

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Merkel says migrants must respect tolerance and German laws

Merkel has come under fire for allowing more than one million refugees to enter Germany over the past two years.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel GETTY IMAGES

Chancellor Angela Merkel said refugees in Germany must respect tolerance, openness and freedom of religion, while senior members of her party called for a ban on foreign funding of mosques.

Merkel will seek a fourth term as chancellor in what is expected to be a tight election in September.

Interviewed by a Syrian journalist who came to Germany in 2015 and asked about what Germany was expecting from refugees, Merkel said in her weekly podcast:

"We expect the people who come to us to stick to our laws."

Merkel said it was paramount that new arrivals respected and understood the liberal values of modern Germany such as tolerance, openness, freedom of religion and freedom of opinion.

The center-right leader urged Germans to show openness in return. "We know very few things about Syria, we know very few things about Iraq or African countries. And we must see this as an opportunity to learn more and experience more," she said.

Merkel's conserva-

tive Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party has lost support since her decision in 2015 to leave Germany's borders open for hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria and Iraq.

Immigration and security are set to be major issues in the election, in which the far-right, anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is expected to enter parliament.

In an apparent attempt to address unease among traditional CDU voters over Merkel's migration policy, CDU deputy party leader Julia Klöckner called for stricter rules for Islamic preachers and a ban on foreign funding of mosques, echoing comments by other senior CDU members in recent days.

Most of the four million Muslims living in Germany have a Turkish background and some mosques in Germany are financed by the Turkish government.

"An 'Islam law' can place the rights and duties of Muslims living in Germany on a new legal basis," Klöckner told Bild am Sonntag.

Klöckner also called for a public register that would list all mosques in Germany and provide background information on sponsors and financiers.

Such rules should also include a right to a Muslim religious counselor in prisons, hospitals and nursing homes, she added.

The CDU's coalition partner and rival party the SPD, whose new leader Martin Schulz will stand against Merkel in September's election, flatly rejected the idea.

"In my opinion, the proposals are hardly compatible with the German constitution," SPD deputy leader Olaf Scholz told the Funke media group, adding that a law could not only be made for a single religious community. REUTERS

SOUTH AMERICA

Venezuela opposition turns ire on Supreme Court judges

Venezuela's opposition lawmakers said on Sunday they will push for the removal of Supreme Court judges whom they accuse of acting on behalf of the ruling Socialists after the top tribunal briefly assumed control of congress last week.

While the move by the opposition-led congress would only be symbolic because it remains powerless, it could add to pressure on unpopular president Nicolas Maduro as he

tries to defuse the furor over what critics saw as a lurch into dictatorship.

The Supreme Court's ruling last week that it would take over functions of the National Assembly triggered international condemnation and opposition protests at home.

Even the country's attorney general, a longtime government ally, said the decision was unconstitutional in a rare public rebuke from Maduro's ranks. On Saturday, at the request of the government, the Supreme Court

eliminated the offending ruling.

But Maduro opponents said no one should believe that row-back meant democracy had been restored in the nation of 30 million people with the world's largest oil reserves.

"Despite a supposed retraction by the government after creating a coup d'etat, and apart from the clarification by the Supreme Court, the coup persists," lawmaker Juan Matheus said on behalf of the opposition. REUTERS

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Rescuers, locals dig for Colombia

President Juan Manuel Santos urged Colombians to brace for continued rains and take what precautions against flooding.

Families and rescuers searched desperately on

Sunday through mud-plastered rubble for victims of flooding and landslides in Colombia that have killed at least 210 people, injured hundreds and devastated entire neighborhoods.

Several rivers burst their banks near the southwestern city of Mocoa in the early hours of

Saturday, sending water, mud and debris crashing down streets and into houses as people slept.

Officials in the nearby town of Villagarzon said they had no storage for recovered bodies and asked for government help.

Many families in Mocoa stayed up through

the night to search in the debris, despite lack of electricity in the city.

"I need to know where they are, if they are injured or where to find them," sobbed Maria Lilia Tisoy, 37, looking for her two daughters, one pregnant, and a 4-year-old granddaughter in the rubble.

"I need to know where they are, if they are injured or where to find them. ... If they are dead, please, God, deliver them to me."

Maria Lilia Tisoy, 37, looking for her two daughters, one pregnant, and a 4-year-old granddaughter in the rubble.

Rescuers search for victims following mudslides caused by heavy rains in Mocoa, Colombia, on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES



Parts of Mocoa were devastated after three rivers in southern Colombia burst their banks. GETTY IMAGES



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flood victims, at least 210 dead

"If they are dead, please, God, deliver them to me."

President Juan Manuel Santos, who said climate change caused the disaster, made a second visit to the area on Sunday. He said water and energy services would be restored as soon as possible.

The army said on Saturday that the death toll was 254, with 400 people injured, but Santos and disaster authorities gave a lower toll, of 210 killed and 203 injured.

Volunteers and firefighters tended to 82 bodies downstream in the town of Villagarzon and said many corpses were

still caught in debris.

"We had to recover them ourselves," Villagarzon Mayor Jhon Ever Calderon told Reuters. "We think we'll find more."

The town has no coffins or sanitary storage, he said.

Disaster officials said 600 people were staying

in emergency housing and social services had helped 10 lost children find their parents.

The disaster came amid extreme weather across the region, including deadly flooding in Peru and drought-induced forest fires in Chile.

Families of the dead

will receive about \$6,400 in aid, Santos has said. The government will cover hospital and funeral costs.

Even in a country where heavy rains, a mountainous landscape and informal construction of homes combine to make mud and landslides a common oc-

currence, the scale of the Mocoa disaster was daunting compared to recent tragedies, including a 2015 landslide that killed nearly 100 people in Antioquia.

Colombia's deadliest landslide, the 1985 Armero disaster, left more than 20,000 dead.

REUTERS



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Schiff says Trump wants focus on tweets, not Russia probe

Trump has repeatedly used Twitter to attack reports on Russian election meddling as “fake news” and “witch hunts” and denounce leakers of classified information on the issue.

“The real story turns out to be SURVEILLANCE and LEAKING! Find the leakers.”

Trump, in a Twitter post on Sunday

The top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee accused President Donald Trump on Sunday of trying to divert Congress from its investigations of Russia’s role in the 2016 U.S. election and any links between Moscow and the Trump campaign.

Rep. Adam Schiff said the Republican president and his aides have instead

attempted to throw the focus on the possibility of illegal leaks of classified information and whether Trump or his associates were caught up in incidental collection by surveillance that was targeting foreigners.

Congressional committees, along with the FBI, are investigating what U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded were attempts by Russia to influence the Nov. 8 presidential election in Trump’s favor. They also are looking at any links between Russia and

Trump.

Schiff said Trump himself tried to shift Congress’ focus away from that core mission of foreign intervention.

“I think his tweets tell the story,” Schiff said on CNN’s “State of the Union.” “And the story is look over there — at leaks, and look over there — at anything the Obama administration we can claim did wrong on incidental collection or anything else.”

“But whatever you do, under no circumstances look here, at me or at



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Rep. Adam Schiff GETTY IMAGES

Russia," he said.

Trump has repeatedly used Twitter to attack reports on Russian election meddling as "fake news" and "witch hunts" and denounce leakers of classified information on the issue.

"The real story turns out to be SURVEILLANCE and LEAKING! Find the leakers," Trump said in a Twitter post on Sunday.

Republican Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, was asked about Trump's Twitter commentary on the congressional investigations.

"Sometimes I think this is a distraction from what we should be doing," Cornyn said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

The Senate panel intends to begin interviewing as many as 20 people, including Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and one of his closest advisers, as early as Monday.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on Sunday there was no evidence of Trump collusion with Russia to win the election. "It's time to move on," she told Fox News.

On March 4, the president without giv-

ing evidence accused his Democratic predecessor, President Barack Obama, of ordering a wiretap of Trump Tower. No elected official, including from Trump's Republican Party, has supported the claim.

But the Republican chairman of the House intelligence panel, Devin Nunes, set off a political firestorm on March 23 when he said the communications of members of Trump's transition team were caught up in incidental surveillance targeting foreigners.

Nunes refused to share the source of his information, but The New York Times revealed last week that two White House officials provided him with the documents on the surveillance, which Trump said was somewhat vindication of his wiretap claim.

Schiff went to the White House on Friday to view the documents. Asked on CNN if he understood why Nunes had issues with the surveillance, Schiff would only say, "I don't agree with the chairman's characterization." REUTERS

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Top Senate Democrat: Unlikely that Trump court pick can clear procedural hurdle

The top Democrat in the Senate said on Sunday it was unlikely that Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch would be able to clear a procedural hurdle to a final vote, even as a third Senate Democrat threw support behind the pick.

Sen. Joe Donnelly, a Democrat from Indiana, announced he would vote in favor of Gorsuch, calling him in a statement a "qualified jurist who ... is well-respected among his peers."

Donnelly joins Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota as the only Senate Democrats to announce support for President Donald Trump's court pick.

Most other Democrats have made their opposition clear and 36 senators have indicated support for a filibuster of the nomination, which would force Republicans to come up with 60 votes to move forward. Republicans control the Senate 52-48.

"It's highly, highly unlikely that he'll get to 60," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said on NBC's "Meet the Press."



Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer GETTY IMAGES

"It's highly, highly unlikely that he'll get to 60."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

If the planned filibuster holds, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell would only be able to advance the nomination of the conservative appeals court judge by changing Senate rules so it could be approved by a simple majority.

McConnell, who also appeared on "Meet the

Press," declined to rule out that option, and vowed the Senate would confirm Gorsuch one way or another.

"What I can tell you is Neil Gorsuch will be confirmed this week. How that happens really depends on our Democratic friends," he said.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is set to vote on the nomination on Monday, setting the stage for what McConnell has said will be a vote in the full Senate on Friday.

McConnell declined to say if he had sufficient support among his fellow Republicans to change the Senate's rules.

REUTERS

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A-Rod has a few words to say about J-Lo

Alex Rodriguez has nothing but nice things to say in very short sentences about his new girlfriend, Jennifer Lopez. These words will either warm your heart or make you wonder whether or not A-Rod has an advanced grasp on the English language.

According to Us Weekly, the 41-year-old broke his silence about his relationship, and it's pretty clear he is begging for someone to buy him a thesaurus.

On whether or not he and Lopez are having a good time: "It's obvious. We've been having a great time. We're having a good time."

Is she a girl, or a woman? "She's an amazing, amazing girl."

What's your grasp on adverbs like? "I



mean, she's a very, very simple person."

What about complete sentences, do you use those ever? "Loves family. Is a great sister. Is a great daughter." Okay!

The two started dating earlier this year. They reportedly like each other mostly because they both

have Latin roots and kids. Inspiring.

Brad Pitt returns to his peak form

Brad Pitt is in the news again, and you won't believe why.

The actor, 53, has been going through a very dramatic divorce and custody battle with Angelina Jolie, a woman you may have heard of. That's something that can really mess with your self-esteem, you know? So the "War Machine" star decided to focus on himself. I imagine Pitt's decision to look inward has been inspired by his therapist,

his sculptor friend, Ben Iver and probably the guy who

works at his favorite gyro stand.

Pitt thought to himself: "When was I happiest? I mean, when was I at my best? Before Angelina came in and saved me, then ruined me?" At first, looking in the mirror, he thought, "Was it me in 'Meet Joe Black'?" But then he thought deeper, harder. "No. It was me in 'Fight Club,' where I acted my nicely shaped butt off, and also had a phenomenal six-pack that glistened, even when there was no light."

Having finally understood where to find his inner power, Pitt vowed to return to himself at his peak: "Fight Club"-era Pitt.

What I'm

saying is, E! News is reporting that Brad Pitt has stepped out in Los Angeles looking thinner

and fitter than ever, and based on what I know, I assume this is why.



the word

RACHAEL CLEMMONS
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Shia LaBeouf won't face court for fighting Nazis

Shia LaBeouf, king of problematic faves, will not be charged for attacking a Nazi. It is 2017.

According to Entertainment Weekly, assault charges against the "American Honey" actor have been dropped. LaBeouf was charged with misdemeanor assault and a harassment violation in late January after allegedly attacking a 25-year-old white supremacist



during a protest against President Donald Trump. LaBeouf was given a pre-arraignment dismissal, citing insufficient

evidence.

The alleged victim said to LaBeouf that "Hitler did nothing wrong," at the actor's interactive, anti-Trump art installation, "HE WILL NOT DIVIDE US." In response, the actor shoved him away. LaBeouf then allegedly pulled the man's scarf, which scratched the victim's face, so you know. He pressed charges.

Odd couple Naya Rivera and David Spade spotted cuddling

Naya Rivera is reportedly dating David Spade because the apocalypse is nigh and it's the time to explore all of our deepest, darkest fantasies.

E! Online has photos of the two getting extremely cozy at the Halekulani Hotel pool in Waikiki. Rivera, 30, and Spade, 52, met on the set of an upcoming comedy, "Mad Families." A source assures E! that the relationship is not at all fake,

or an April Fool's joke.

They're an odd couple, sure, but stranger things have happened. Rihanna went on a date with Shia LaBeouf, once. In the last 20 years, Johnny Depp transformed from a totally bangable eccentric into a pile of dingy scarves with googly eyes rimmed with day-old mascara on top. Donald Trump successfully ran for president of the United States.



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Danny Boyle on how men age badly, and the upside of heroin

The Oscar-winning director opens up about "T2 Trainspotting"



MATT PRIGGE
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Danny Boyle was really not sure he wanted to make a "Trainspotting" sequel. There was talk of a follow-up back around 2006, as the smash hit — the one about young heroin addicts played by Ewan McGregor, Jonny Lee Miller, Ewen Bremner and Robert Carlyle — was turning 10. But it didn't feel right.

"If we went back to it, and the actors didn't look that different — which they didn't 10 years ago — and we didn't really have anything to say, other than to rehash some of the jokes, it wasn't good enough," Boyle tells us.

Cut to 2015, with the 20th anniversary looming, and they decided to take another crack at it. It turns out the new "T2 Trainspotting" is very dif-

ferent indeed: gloomier, sadder, though still darkly comic. Where the first film was about youth, the second is about aging, and how badly our heroes — reunited after two decades — are handling their mid-40s.

We talked to Boyle — who since the original has made "28 Days Later," "127 Hours" and "Slumdog Millionaire," which netted him a Best Director Oscar — about making a very different sequel, the controversy that plagued the first and, of course, heroin.

What convinced you a "Trainspotting" sequel would be more than a rehash?

As we talked about it, something more personal emerged. We wanted to be honest about decay, about wounds, and — since it's a very male environment, the original film and this new one as well — about how poorly men age. Our representatives of that are a very peculiar group, obviously, because of their relation-



The original cast including Ewan McGregor and Jonny Lee Miller are back in "T2 Trainspotting." JAP BUITENDIJK

ship with drugs and with each other. But it's about the transition from a celebration of all that energy of youth to manhood, and male behavior over time.

The tone is different, too. It doesn't look or feel like the first.

The biggest change is there's no voiceover. The first is a voiceover film. There's hardly any dia-

logue. It's all led by Renton. He leads you through the visuals. That was a big decision, not to give him voiceover this time. He can't hide behind the voiceover. He can't smart aleck his way through a voiceover again. He's got to say what happened. Eventually we do hear him say that he's 46 and he's f—ed. That makes a huge difference to the

style of the film, how you shoot it.

"Trainspotting" was criticized for "glamorizing" drugs. But it's so much more complex, which is not to say that it's actually simple anti-drug propaganda.

There was a malaise at the time that the film tried to break. People often moralized in a way that was disconnected from the experiences of a lot of the people who were going to see the film, who did have a relationship with drugs. That relationship is full of risks, but they're risks they're willing to take.

The first one is a celebration of that recklessness, that abandon

you have as you emerge out of childhood. It didn't try to moralize about it, because that's what was unique about the book: It gives you their perspective, of these people who are normally viewed by mainstream society as victims or stupid or evil.

Often the people who are dealing out that morality have a relationship to drugs themselves. As Renton points out, they're addicted to the drug du jour, whether that's Prozac, whether that's Viagra, whether it's painkillers. And heroin is a pain-

killer. It's in our hospitals, and if we're lucky we'll all die on it, because it's a very nice way to go, apparently. I've seen elderly relatives self-administering it. If you're unlucky enough to be in a car crash, you'll be on it.



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Look at that spread. PROVIDED

pepper condiments (the red one is Florina peppers with dill and parsley and the green one is long hots).

According to chef Bobby Saritsoglou, the inspiration for the dish came from family.

"The idea came from cooking with Grandma and Mom and my aunts," he said. "Rolling dolmades is something they

did all together because it's kind of a tedious thing to roll 50 or 100 of them for a big feast so everybody would gather around the table."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2019-2023 Financial Plan and the Selected Tariff Changes and Proposed Fare Increases

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) has scheduled public hearings on the Proposed Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018 (Fiscal Year 2018) and the Five Year Financial Plan. The Operating Budget proposal includes fare changes as listed below:

THE SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

Delaware Co. Court House
County Council Room - 1st Fl.
201 W. Front Street
Media, PA 19063
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
2:00pm & 6:00pm

Bucks Co. Free Library
Pearl Buck Room
150 S. Pine Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
Thursday, April 20, 2017
2:00pm & 6:00pm

West Chester Borough Hall
Council Chambers
401 E. Gay Street
West Chester, PA 19380
Friday, April 21, 2017
2:00pm & 6:00pm

Southeastern Pennsylvania
Transportation Authority
Board Room
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Monday, April 24, 2017
11:00am & 5:00pm

Montgomery Co.
Human Services Center
Community Room Main Fl.
1430 DeKalb Street
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Tuesday, April 25, 2017
2:00pm & 6:00pm

Persons wishing to file written comments may forward them to the Director of Operating Budget, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, 1234 Market St., 9th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107 by May 1, 2017 so that they may be forwarded to the Hearing Examiner. Comments can also be sent via E-mail to operatingbudget@septa.org. Persons desiring to present extensive comments and testimony are encouraged to do so in writing as the time for individual testimony may be limited in order to accommodate all who wish to speak. SEPTA will provide a sign language interpreter at the public hearings upon written request received no later than April 1, 2017. Written requests can be mailed to the Director of Operating Budget at the address above. On or about March 19, 2017, members of the public may obtain a copy of the proposed Operating Budget and Financial Plan at SEPTA's website www.septa.org or by requesting a copy in writing from the Director of Operating Budget at the address listed above.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FARE CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017

TRANSIT DIVISION	CURRENT	PROPOSED	SEPTA KEY
Cash/Quick Trip	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50
SEPTA token	\$1.80	\$2.00	NA
Cash via SEPTA Key Card (Replaces SEPTA Token)	NA	NA	\$2.00
Cash Transfer Fee	\$1.00	\$1.00	NA
Transfer Fee via SEPTA Key Card (Replaces Paper Transfer)	NA	NA	\$1.00
Weekly TransPass	\$24.00	\$25.50	\$25.50
Monthly TransPass	\$91.00	\$96.00	\$96.00
Convenience Pass	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Disabled Fare	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.25
PATCO Joint Fare	\$3.10	\$3.50	\$4.00
Paratransit/Shared Ride	\$4.00	\$4.25	\$4.25
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Ten Trip Zone 1	\$38.00	\$40.00	Replaced by SEPTA Key	Replaced by SEPTA Key	NA
Ten Trip Zone 2	\$45.00	\$47.50	Replaced by SEPTA Key	Replaced by SEPTA Key	NA
Ten Trip Zone 3	\$54.50	\$57.50	Replaced by SEPTA Key	Replaced by SEPTA Key	NA
Ten Trip Zone 4	\$62.50	\$65.00	Replaced by SEPTA Key	Replaced by SEPTA Key	NA
Ten Trip Zone NJ	\$80.00	\$82.50	Replaced by SEPTA Key	Replaced by SEPTA Key	NA
Weekday Zone 1	\$4.75	\$5.25	\$4.00	\$5.25	\$7.00
Weekday Zone 2	\$4.75	\$5.25	\$4.75	\$5.25	\$7.00
Weekday Zone 3	\$5.75	\$6.00	\$5.75	\$6.00	\$8.00
Weekday Zone 4	\$6.50	\$6.75	\$6.50	\$6.75	\$8.00
Weekday Zone NJ	\$9.00	\$9.25	\$8.25	\$9.25	\$11.00
Evening/Weekend Zone 1	\$3.75	\$4.25	\$4.00	\$4.25	\$6.00
Evening/Weekend Zone 2	\$3.75	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$6.00
Evening/Weekend Zone 3	\$5.00	\$5.25	\$5.25	\$5.25	\$8.00
Evening/Weekend Zone 4	\$5.00	\$5.25	\$5.25	\$5.25	\$8.00
Evening/Weekend Zone NJ	\$9.00	\$9.25	\$8.25	\$9.25	\$11.00

RAILROAD DIVISION	CURRENT	PROPOSED	SEPTA KEY	FARE KIOSK	ON BOARD**
Weekly TrailPass Zone 1	\$27.25	\$28.25	\$28.25	\$28.25	
Weekly TrailPass Zone 2	\$36.50	\$39.00	\$39.00	\$39.00	
Weekly TrailPass Zone 3	\$44.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	
Weekly TrailPass Anywhere	\$53.00	\$55.75	\$55.75	\$55.75	
Monthly TrailPass Zone 1	\$101.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	
Monthly TrailPass Zone 2	\$135.00	\$144.00	\$144.00	\$144.00	
Monthly TrailPass Zone 3	\$163.00	\$174.00	\$174.00	\$174.00	
Monthly TrailPass Anywhere	\$191.00	\$204.00	\$204.00	\$204.00	
Weekly Cross County	\$29.00	\$30.75	\$30.75	NA	
Monthly Cross County	\$109.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	NA	

RAILROAD DIVISION	CURRENT	PROPOSED	SEPTA KEY	FARE KIOSK	ON BOARD**
Intermediate One Way	\$3.50	\$3.75	\$3.75	NA	\$5.00
Intermediate One Way Half Fare	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	NA	\$1.75
Via Center City Phila.	\$8.50	\$9.25	\$9.25	NA	\$11.00
Via Center City Phila. Half Fare	\$4.25	\$4.50	\$4.50	NA	\$5.50
Independence Pass	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Family Independence Pass	\$29.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Senior Citizen outside PA.	\$1.75-\$4.25	\$1.75-\$4.50	\$1.75-\$4.50	NA	\$1.75-\$4.50
Child/Disabled (Cash)	\$1.75-\$5.00	\$1.75-\$5.50	NA	NA	\$1.75-\$5.50
RRD Surface lot daily parking fee**	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.25	NA	NA
RRD Surface lot monthly parking permit	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	NA	NA
Lansdale Garage	NA	\$2.00	NA	\$2.00	

**Effective with launch of SEPTA Key on the Railroad Division
NA= Not Applicable
SEPTA Key = Payment via SEPTA smart media card
SEPTA will provide 60 days notice of effective date of SEPTA KEY fares and/or instrument changes

CHANGES ARE BEING PROPOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING TARIFFS:

TARIFF #1 CITY TRANSIT DIVISION

Fare increase presented above

\$1.50 Cross County transfer fee is eliminated

TransPasses valid on weekends and major holidays for travel on the railroad

Once SEPTA Key is fully operational the following changes will be implemented:

- Transfers will only be available via SEPTA Key Card, paper transfer eliminated

- Disabled Fare only available via use of SEPTA Key Card containing photo ID

- Senior rides only available upon swiping a valid PA Driver's license, PA issued photo ID card or tapping a SEPTA Senior Key Card. Medicare, blue/yellow senior citizen cards will no longer be valid

TARIFF #155 SUBURBAN TRANSIT DIVISION

Fare increase presented above
NHSL premium fares removed and replaced with standard transit fare

Routes 123, 124, 125 and 150 premium fares removed and replaced with standard transit fare

Once SEPTA Key is fully operational the following changes will be implemented:

- Transfers will only be available via SEPTA Key Card, paper transfer eliminated

- Disabled Fare only available via use of SEPTA Key Card containing photo ID

- Senior rides only available upon swiping a valid PA Driver's license, PA issued photo ID card or tapping a SEPTA Senior Key Card. Medicare, blue/yellow senior citizen cards will no longer be valid

TARIFF #154 RAILROAD DIVISION

Fare increase presented above
SEPTA/NJT joint monthly pass is eliminated.

Once SEPTA Key is fully operational the following changes will be implemented:

- Disabled Fare only available via use of SEPTA Key Card containing photo ID

- Senior rides only available with the presentation of a valid PA Driver's license, PA issued photo ID card or SEPTA Senior Key Card - Senior \$1.00 fare to be eliminated with implementation of SEPTA Key on Regional Rail

- Ten trip fare is eliminated and replaced with discounted one way fare via SEPTA Key Card with stored value

TARIFF #112 PATCO

Fare increase presented above
Once SEPTA Key is operational the following changes will be implemented:

- Joint fare discount is eliminated

- PATCO Freedom Card can be used on SEPTA for fare payment

TARIFF #132 INTERDIVISIONAL

Fare increase presented above
TransPasses valid on weekends and major holidays for travel on the railroad

TARIFF #168 PARKING

Fare increase presented above
Once SEPTA Key is operational the following changes will be implemented:

- Ability to use SEPTA adult tokens for partial payment is eliminated once new equipment is installed and operational
- Long term parking rates are established where overnight parking is permitted
- Surface lot daily fee increases from \$1.00 to \$1.25

TARIFF #229 PARATRANSIT-ADA

Fare increase presented above
Once SEPTA Key is operational the adult token will no longer be accepted as partial payment of fare

TARIFF #146 DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICE (Shared Ride Program)

Fare increase presented above

SEE TARIFFS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See the movie that inspired James Franco's 'The Disaster Artist'



Tommy Wiseau at a screening for "The Room" in 2014. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Tommy Wiseau comes to Philly to screen "The Room."

At its premiere last month at South by Southwest, James Franco's latest project received a standing ovation. The film's subject matter is a far cry from the raunchy comedies that Franco usually ap-

pears in.

"The Disaster Artist" stars Franco as cult-movie director, producer and actor Tommy Wiseau. So, the question is: Who is this largely unknown person that inspired Franco to devote an en-

tire film to him?

In the early 2000s, hopeful filmmaker Tommy Wiseau landed in L.A. With 1980s-rock-star hair, an accent that remains unidentified and mysterious streams of income, the man stood out among most transplants in the city.

In 2003, he single-handedly raised millions of dollars to fund his personal pet project: "The Room." Wiseau wrote, produced, directed and starred in the indie film — despite having zero experience in any of these fields. The result?

"The Room" is a disaster of a film that Entertainment Weekly once described as "the 'Citizen Kane' of bad movies."

It tells the story of San Francisco banker Johnny (Wiseau), who suffers through a never-ending stream of betrayal, jilted, bizarre di-

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Tommy Wiseau attends the screening of "The Disaster Artist" at SXSW with James Franco and team in March.

ologue, horrible acting and shoddy production values bring the weak plot to life.

Wiseau believed in his craft, however, and self-funded a Los Angeles premiere.

Its intended short theater life was prolonged once word spread of how awful it was. It wasn't long before "The Room" — and its creator — gained cult status. The eccentric, bi-

zarre and still very unskilled Wiseau became an underground legend. Wiseau's best friend and co-star, Greg Sestero, wrote a book chronicling his experiences making the movie. This book, "The Disaster Artist," was picked up by "Room" fanatic Franco.

While a release date has not been set for Franco's movie, you won't have to wait long to see the film that in-

spired it. Tommy Wiseau will be appearing at midnight screenings of "The Room" at the Ritz Bourse in Old City. There, he will meet fans, sell "Room" merchandise (like Tommy Wiseau underwear) and host Q&A sessions.

The screenings will be held at midnight on April 14 and 15. Tickets are \$15 and are available online at landmarktheatres.com

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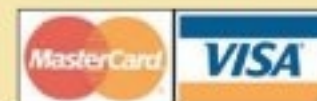
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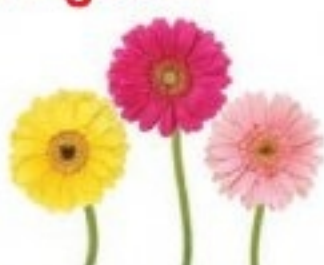
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At 10 am at 2515 S. Front St., Phila., PA 19148

5610 Amanda Amico, 1075 Cynthia Brandt, 5059 John Campbell, 4070 Piyaporn Chunmuang, 2095 Daniel Decosta, 3056 Pam Dirapeli, 2038 John Holt, 1070 Shacey Kintchen, 5208 Thomas Rodriguez, 5558 Irene Thurston, 1063 Jules Vuotto.

At 10 am at 7049 Frankford Ave., Phila., PA 19135

311 Sharkey Veronica, 1201 Sierra Mark, 103 Szukalski Theresa, 1613 Woodson Slave.

At 10 am at 5440 North 6th Street, Phila., PA 19120

2505 Norma Barnes, 37 Benjamin Burwell, 1210 Paris L. Callaway, 1410 Bernard J. Davis, 3309 Chavez A. Davis, 1402 Antonio Encarnacion, 312 Esther Greene, 230 Kristan Henderson, 3208 Altamase Holmes, 903 Corney Johnson, 3206 Mollie Lewis 46 Lee Ruffin, 21 Sumayah Abdus-Sabur, 1408 Dana Sharp, 3512 Berleen Starfield, 1209 Tanya Scott, 122 Leila Varella.

At 10 am at 5026 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128

677 Margaret Akana, 476 Reba Bush, 559 Jason Elmann, 667 Brenda Elarbae, 463 Kevin Gibson, 242 Delia Gorman, 461 Eric Gregg, 514 Dale Hamis, 1411 James Jackson, 658 Yvette Johnson, 469 Jewel A. Lessor, 439 Jason A. Leake, 499 Debessaya Mengistab, 300 Mokaem Orenigbagbe, 527 Jesiah O. Patterson, 681 Angela Pollock, 1216 Earlene Smith, 327 Ryan Smith, 2222 Tara G. Tschenz.

At 10 am at 6758 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128

142 Sarah Bianca, 19 Johanna Donnelly, 108 Cathy Fuller, 206 John Fusco.

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Eugene Mirman talks about the day comedy died



Mirman voices Gene Belcher on the hit show "Bob's Burgers." **BRIAN TAMBORELLO**

The "Bob's Burger" star performs Philly this week.



JENNIFER LOGUE
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Eugene Mirman has been pursuing comedy professionally since college — heck, he even designed his own comedy major. Since then, the 42-year-old has expanded beyond stand-up to acting (remember him as the landlord in "Flight of the Conchords"?), and voice-overs for hit shows like "Bob's Burgers," in which he plays 11-year-old Gene Belcher.

Next Thursday, Mirman comes to Underground Arts to perform stand-up for his Philly fans. We chat about his

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career beginnings, that time when "comedy died" and the factors that have played into its resurgence.

Gene on Bob's Burgers is the middle child, a prankster. Do you relate to him at all?

Yes, I think so. He has, I would say, a whimsical love of life. If a modern 42-year-old me was turned into an 11-year-old, it would be Gene.

Is it fun playing a kid?

It's really fun. I mean, the thing that's so fun is to get to work on a show like this with friends.

We've done the show for a long time, but we've also all been friends largely for 15 years or more. I met Loren Bouchard (who created "Bob's Burgers"), in Boston in the '90s.

When did you know you wanted to be a pro comedian?

I was pretty young. I did stand up for the first time when I was 18 and I went to college at Hampshire College in western [Massachusetts],

where you can design your own major and I designed a major of comedy.

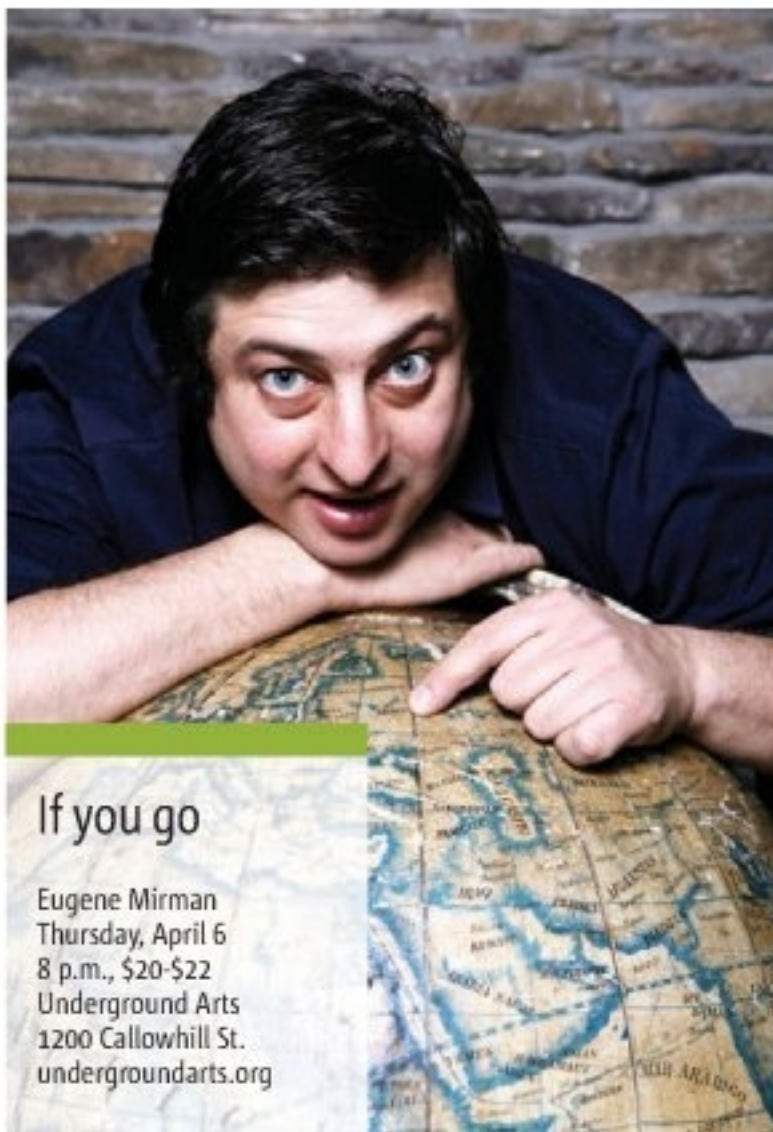
Comedy seems to be getting more popular as an art form.

Well, when I started, it was literally when comedy died. You know stand up comedy used to be gigantic in the '80s and then in the very early '90s it sort of crashed as an industry. Anywhere that there was a stage or space for a stage and a mic, venues would do stand up but didn't always have the comics who could make people laugh for 45 minutes.

Talk about pressure.

But yes, I definitely think it's had this huge resurgence. Also, there's so much more that you can do now on your own. You can make your own videos. You can put out your own record. There's a lot of technology in distribution at everyone's fingertips that used to never exist.

You're coming to Philly this month for a show



If you go

Eugene Mirman
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1200 Callowhill St.
undergroundarts.org

Reading Terminal is one of Mirman's favorite Philly spots. SETH OLENICK

at Underground Arts. Excited?

Yeah, I love coming to Philly so I'm very excited to return. I've performed at many,

many venues throughout the Philadelphia area. Looking forward to seeing friends, going to Reading Terminal and exploring new places.

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A great salary is just one benefit of becoming an occupational therapist

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Jobs are plentiful in this rapidly expanding rehabilitation field

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Consistently ranked as one of the most recession-proof jobs, occupational therapy offers more than just stability. It also boasts a great starting salary (about \$53,000), flexibility and overall job satisfaction.

Even better, the field is rapidly growing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that occupational-therapist jobs are expected to increase 27 percent between 2014

and 2024 (much higher than average) and 30,400 positions will need to be filled in that time.

We spoke to Karen Jacobs, a clinical professor of occupational therapy at Boston University and a practicing occupational therapist to find out more about the field.

What does an OT do?

As a health and rehabilitation profession, the main role of an occupational therapist is to help injured, ill or disabled people of all ages — from newborns, to the elderly — regain their ability to perform everyday tasks, says Jacobs.

Their exact role, however, depends on the sort of issues the patient is dealing with, whether it be mental, physical, emotional or developmental. After assessing the patient, the OT will

map out a plan to help the patients meet their goals, which can range anywhere from being able to brush their teeth or grasp a pencil, to walking steadily.

Jacobs explains it as, “We focus on what we call ‘occupations’, which are these meaningful everyday activities that people do.”

Breaking into the field

There are two routes to enter the profession, says Jacobs: You can train to be an occupational therapist or an occupational therapist assistant.

On the assistant level, students need to complete a two-year program that’s typically offered at variety of community colleges, and then pass the national certification exam before becoming a certified occupational therapy assistant.

An occupational

therapist must have a master’s degree or doctorate in occupational therapy. They must also complete two, three-month fieldwork programs, she explains, “which, depending on the program, could be after all of your course work is done, or be integrated in during your schooling.” After that, students must pass the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy exam (NBCOT), and apply for a license in the states they want to practice in.

What’s the typical salary for an occupational therapist?

The median annual salary for occupational therapists was \$80,150 in 2015, according to the most recent reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The best-paid 10 percent in the profes-

sion made \$116,030, while the lowest-paid 10 percent made \$53,250.

Is it hard to find employment?

“Not at all,” says Jacobs. “There are plenty of opportunities, and we’re finding that that’s growing because of demographics.” The need for occupational therapists is expected to increase as baby boomers age and still strive to live life to their fullest, she explains. There’s also been an increase in the diagnosis of autism, and an increasing demand for school-based occupational therapists, which makes the profession all the more necessary.

The pros

“The sky’s the limit, because we work with all people,” says Jacobs. And the field provides a wide

variety of places to work. OTs could be working in academia, nursing facilities, schools, hospitals, or mental-health facilities, to name a few. “Plus, there’s a growing area of entrepreneurship, where OTs are spreading their wings and starting their businesses as well,” she explains.

The main draw: “Our students are getting very good salaries, a lot of opportunities for advancement and a lifetime of gratification because it’s a profession that really makes a difference in people’s lives,” says Jacobs.

The cons

“The field is so broad, which oftentimes causes confusion,” says Jacobs. “Sometimes people don’t really understand what we do and so it may take a little while for us to help them understand our role.”

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Phils' Mackanin hopes to keep same batting order for entire season

The Phillies are hoping for a lot of lineup consistency in 2017.



EVAN MACY
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From 2007 until somewhere in 2012, Phillies fans far and wide knew the batting order without even looking. As Philly won five consecutive NL East titles, Jimmy Rollins always led off, Chase Utley always hit third and Ryan Howard was always batting cleanup.

Pat Burrell, Raul Ibanez, Hunter Pence or Jayson Werth hit fifth and Shane Victorino hit second.

That consistency, understandably, has not been there for the Phillies' most recent squads as their rebuild reached the depths of last place in the

division and close to 100 losses.

The team is finally at the end of the rebuilding tunnel and expects to be close to .500 or even better in 2017. Not surprisingly, manager Pete Mackanin is pretty sure he's got one perfect batting order all set for the regular season.

"I keep looking at the lineup and it always comes up the same for me," Mackanin said. "[Cesar] Hernandez is a prototypical lead-off hitter, [Howie] Kendrick second, [Odubel] Herrera third, [Maikel] Franco in the fourth spot, behind him [Michael] Saunders, [Tommy] Joseph, [Cameron] Rupp and [Freddie] Galvis.

"Last year I was always at odds to try and put together lineups. This year I find myself going to the same lineup I've been thinking about since the

Projected lineup

1. 2B Cesar Hernandez
2. LF Howie Kendrick
3. CF Odubel Herrera
4. 3B Maikel Franco
5. RF Michael Saunders
6. 1B Tommy Joseph
7. C Cameron Rupp
8. SS Freddie Galvis

winter. It seems to be the right lineup to this point."

Hernandez, according to Mackanin, has become a more reliable base stealer, overcoming 13 caught stealings with a 7-for-7 mark this spring. He has all the attributes of a lead-off man.

"Cesar started playing with a lot of confidence," Mackanin said. "He played with confidence on defense and on offense. He takes pitches and knows how to work the count."



Pete Mackanin — at least to start the season — thinks he has his lineup down pat. GETTY IMAGES

Mackanin is also confident that Herrera — who he says is the Phillies' best batter for average — is the perfect man to sit in the middle of the order.

"If there are two out and no one on," Mackanin said, "I want him at the plate to hit a homer or a double."

Franco has the power to hit at the fourth spot and many baseball pundits

expect he has the opportunity to really burst onto the scene and live up to his promise in 2017. Mackanin has noticed that, thanks to hitting coach Matt Stairs, Franco is swinging a little easier and it could be a big benefit.

The manager is also happy to have found his keystone man, at least for now, at first base.

"Tommy Joseph is the

everyday first baseman," Mackanin said, commenting on the impressive spring from journeyman Brock Stassi which led him to make the 25-man roster. "I am going to give everybody as much rest as they need. Stassi can play first base, he can play left field, he will get enough at-bats to stay sharp but he is the everyday first baseman."

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Intriguing Phillies storylines as 2017 season begins

The Phillies may not make the playoffs in 2017, but the upcoming campaign is extremely important for a bevy of reasons.

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Here's what to keep an eye on in the season's early going as things get underway on the diamond this week:

1 Nola's comeback

That saying, "one setback for a major comeback," applies perfectly with what Aaron Nola will be dealing with during the 2017 season. Nola was

tabbed to be the future ace of the rotation and showed signs of being just that in 2015 with a 6-2 record and 3.59 ERA in 13 starts. Then came a frustrating sophomore season that was cut short due to injury. How Nola (and his elbow) respond this year will go a long way in determining if the former first round pick can one day be this staff's ace.

2 Stassi's usage

Brock Stassi won over the hearts of the fan base and clearly that of management's as he went from long shot to owning a spot on the Opening Day roster thanks to a breakout spring training. Now the hard part kicks in as Stassi must prove he's worthy of a spot, and that he can

play left field at a major league level with Tommy Joseph being the everyday first baseman.

3 Herrera's quest for battling title

One of the early spring storylines was Odubel Herrera saying he can win a batting title. A first-time All-Star in 2016, Herrera has certainly shown the signs of being an efficient hitter as evidenced by his .291 career average over two years. It'll be fun to watch him this year to see if he makes any adjustments, such as going the other way like manager Pete Mackanin has preached.

4 Mackanin's future

The Phillies decided to



Will Odubel Herrera again vie for a batting title? GETTY IMAGES

extend the once interim manager post-Ryne Sandberg through this season with a club option for 2018. Entering 2017, Mackanin's record in Philadelphia stands at 108-142. It's tough to truly analyze a coach or manager during a rebuilding process, but it does seem the higher ups trust Mackanin moving forward. He has a better lineup to work with this season, though, so it'll certainly

help his status if he can get this team in more competitive games.

5 Veterans must perform

Yes, the Phillies want guys like Howie Kendrick, Michael Saunders and Clay Bucholz to perform for obvious reasons, but they also would like them to play at a high level for another reason: trade value.

"With the additions of Kendrick and Saunders you can see they are going to give us professional at bats," Mackanin said prior to Monday's 4:10 p.m. season opener against the Reds.

Any one of those three players, along with Jeremy Hellickson, could be targeted by contenders come the trade deadline

and in turn, be a way for the organization to flip a veteran for a prospect.

6 The team's best lineup probably isn't in Philadelphia (yet)

Once the summer heats up, there's a chance the Phillies will be treading water in a top-heavy NL East. No worries, though, as the organization's best 1-through-9 players are sprinkled throughout the farm system. From Mickey Moniak to J.P. Crawford and Nick Williams to Scott Kingery, there's much to watch and get excited about with the Phillies. ... it just may not exactly be front and center at Citizens Bank Park.

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Opening Day start is homecoming (of sorts) for Phillies' Hellickson

They don't have a Major League Baseball team in Iowa, so the Cincinnati Reds are about as close as Jeremy Hellickson could get when he was growing up in Des Moines.

Now nearing his 30th birthday, the Phillies starting pitcher is getting his second straight Opening Day start, ironically enough in Cincinnati.

"My mom, dad, grandparents, girlfriend and my nephew will be there this year," Hellickson said.

"They are all driving down to support me. It's probably a [seven or eight hour drive]."

Hellickson seems to be a calming veteran force atop the Phillies rotation, helping to lead and mentor young hurlers like Aaron Nola, Vince Velasquez and Jared Eickhoff.

"[Hellickson] was a model of consistency last year," Phillies manager Pete Mackanin said, explaining why he gave the nod to the 29-year-old former AL Rookie of the Year. "When he has his changeup and breaking ball working, he's a solid major league pitcher. He's a good example of when velocity doesn't necessarily equal success."

Throughout a solid spring, Hellickson was taking his foot off the pedal a bit and finding



Jeremy Hellickson will toss the first pitch Monday at 4:10 p.m. GETTY IMAGES

control. Just like he was in 2016 when he led the Phillies staff with 189 innings pitched, a 12-10 record and 3.71 ERA.

After a surprising decision to accept the Phillies' qualifying offer, Hellickson returns to start on Opening Day for a team that had him the subject of trade rumors for nearly all of last season. It didn't seem to affect his play — and if he's the subject of more June and July rumors, he's ready for it.

"I am kind of used to it by now," he said. "I don't really think about that stuff. Right now, it's just about getting ready for [Monday against the Reds] and hopefully we start a little better than we did last year."

As for his decision to

return to Philly?

"I love it here, I wanted to be back," he said prior to his start Monday. "It was a pretty easy decision when it came down to it."

Hellickson will turn 30 shortly after making his Opening Day start and even though in baseball years he is an aging veteran, he still is shooting to improve and have a long career in the majors.

"My goal is every year to stay healthy and be as consistent as I can," he said. "I've set a 200 inning goal since I was a rookie — if you make every start and get to 200 innings, you'll probably look back and like how your year went. I haven't gotten there yet, but it's a goal."

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DEADLINE: 2 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION AT 4 PM.



Across

- 1 Police alert
- 4 Dazed, with "out"
- 9 Wall climber
- 12 1939 Lugosi role
- 13 Nitrogen compound
- 14 Perfume holder
- 16 Feng --
- 17 Sheet of plywood
- 18 Horrible boss
- 19 Sci-fi invader
- 21 Nerve cells
- 23 Caper
- 25 Parched feeling
- 26 Film director Vittorio (2 wds.)
- 29 Licorice herb
- 31 Veld scavenger
- 32 Poet's black
- 33 Hearty swallow
- 37 Zoologists' mouths
- 38 Orchestra section
- 41 Derisive snort
- 42 Rains on
- 44 Diminish
- 45 Patsy of "I Fall to Pieces"
- 47 Stay in touch
- 49 Rough-textured
- 50 Get back
- 53 Prey grabber
- 55 Weather front (2 wds.)
- 57 Flustered
- 61 Mound
- 62 Gossip tidbits

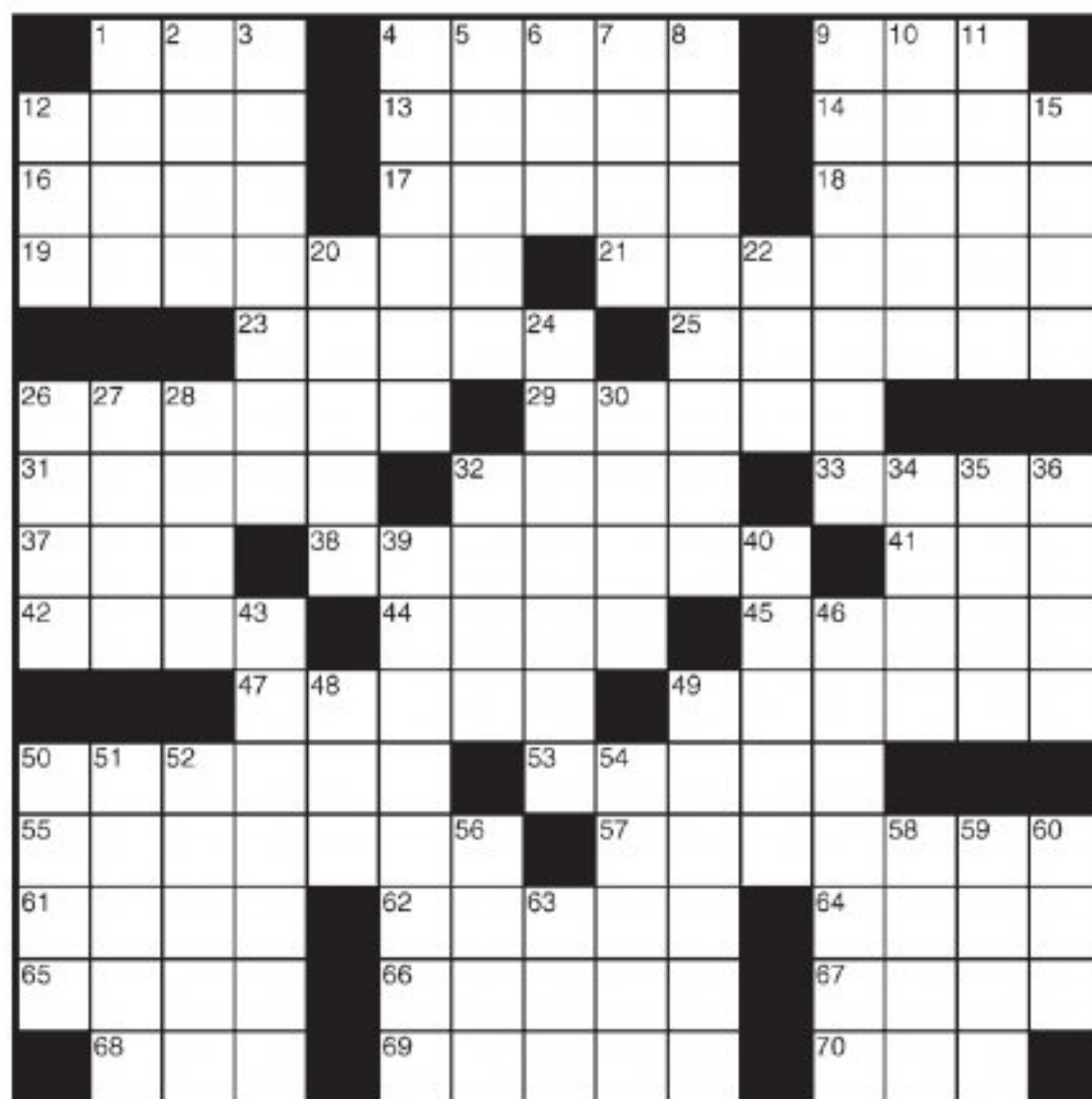
- 64 Sushi fish
- 65 Half a beef
- 66 Goose eggs
- 67 Break
- 68 U.K. lexicon
- 69 Grinding material
- 70 D.C. lobbyist

Down

- 1 -- Khan
- 2 Serve tea
- 3 Dover locale
- 4 "Viva --!"
- 5 Saudi neighbor

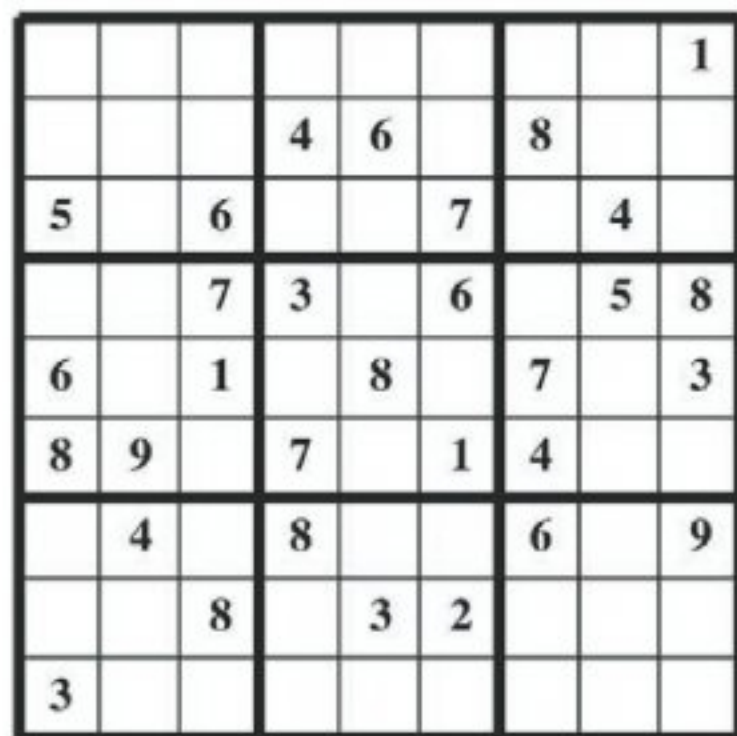
- 6 Author Anais --
- 7 Idyllic spot
- 8 Striking out
- 9 Slangy teeth
- 10 Vim's companion
- 11 Knitting materials
- 12 Distinctive doctrine
- 15 Just in case
- 20 Machu Picchu founders
- 22 Cousins of "um"
- 24 Kitchen fixture
- 26 Red Sea vessel
- 27 Rochester's Jane
- 28 Box or bucket --
- 30 Zilch
- 32 Q.E.D. part
- 34 Hum
- 35 McKellen and Holm
- 36 Clarified butter
- 39 Not a queen (2 wds.)
- 40 Make tracks
- 43 Overloaded
- 46 Light protector
- 48 Estuary
- 49 Elegant
- 50 Grandstand yells
- 51 Nursery song refrain
- 52 Do roadwork
- 54 Armadillo's protection
- 56 Banana stalk
- 58 Knowing look
- 59 Movie lioness
- 60 Aug. clock setting
- 63 Sooner than

metro.us/crossword



metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Channel your emotions into work. Get things done behind the scenes and master what you want to pursue. An overreaction will cause problems with relationships.



Taurus Discuss your choices with someone you trust. Learn from people with experience, but thoroughly examine the information offered to you.



Gemini Stay on top of what others say, and get offers or promises in writing. If you want to bring about change, get approval before you begin. Avoid conflicts with partners.



Cancer Refrain from making an erratic move based on hearsay or peer pressure. Channel your energy into creative, innovative ideas and plans that will help you get ahead.



Leo Don't complain or criticize. It's in your best interest to make personal changes. Put more time into learning and applying what you discover to improve your life and future.



Virgo A little give-and-take and sincerity will bring you closer to your loved ones. Don't be afraid to be different. Home and health issues should be taken seriously.



Libra Don't give up or let your emotions take control. Keep your feet on the ground and stick to basics. Walk away from excessive people, and don't make compensations.



Scorpio A creative outlet will stimulate your mind and lead to all sorts of new possibilities. Serious discussions and personal changes look rewarding.



Sagittarius Indecisiveness will surface if you can't decide how you feel about someone. Consider the consequences and do your best to quantify the ideal way to move forward.



Capricorn Don't let others' actions discourage you. Do your own thing and don't feel obligated to take part in something you find risky. Make personal changes.



Aquarius Don't let the past haunt you. You need to recognize certain insincere gestures of friendliness. Someone using emotional blackmail will try to take advantage of you.



Pisces Do your thing and stop worrying about what others think. You cannot please everyone, but you can master the art of personal happiness. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

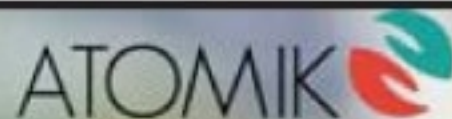


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The ATOMIK clinical study is enrolling adults and teenagers with eczema (atopic dermatitis) and severe itching to study an investigational oral medicine.

If you or your teenager have eczema (atopic dermatitis) and severe itching, you or your teenager may qualify to participate in the ATOMIK clinical study.

For more information contact our clinical coordinator:

1.866.230.4185



Do you have very itchy skin?

Trapped by Depression?

Let's Try to Find a Way Out...

A clinical research study is currently evaluating an investigational drug for its safety and effectiveness in the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder.

IF YOU CAN ANSWER **YES** TO THESE QUESTIONS, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.

- ☒ Are you 18 - 65 years old?
- ☒ Not getting adequate results with your current antidepressant therapy?
- ☒ Diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder?

LET'S TALK, CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS STUDY.

866.230.4185



Do you or a loved one have schizophrenia?



If so, please contact CCR Trials today about inpatient and outpatient medical research studies

Qualified participants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Currently experience symptoms of Schizophrenia

Qualified participants receive:

- All study related evaluations and study medication at no cost
- Total compensation ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000 for time and travel

For more information, call **866-410-3838 • HRITrials.com**

